



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24th MAY 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors K Norchi (Chair), J Chesworth (Vice-Chair), R Bilcliff, S Claymore, D Cook, C Cooke, A Couchman, S Doyle, J Faulkner, R Ford, M Gant, J Goodall, S Goodall, M Greatorex, R Kingstone, A James, A Lunn, T Madge, J Oates, M Oates, S People, T People, R Pritchard, R Rogers, P Seekings, P Standen, M Summers, M Thurgood and P Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Andrew Barratt (Corporate Director Growth, Assets and Environment), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Natalie Missenden (Public Relations Officer) and Janice Clift (Democratic and Elections Officer)

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Clements

### **2 MAYOR'S CADET**

Tom Heard was inaugurated as the Mayor's Cadet for 2016/17

### **3 TO ELECT A MAYOR**

Councillor K Norchi was elected as Mayor and proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Maureen Gant's year as Mayor

*(Moved by Councillor A Lunn and seconded by Councillor P Seekings)*

### **4 TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor J Chesworth was elected as Deputy Mayor

*(Moved by Councillor K Norchi and seconded by Councillor M Gant)*

### **5 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor D Cook was elected Leader of the Council

*(Moved by Councillor A James and seconded by Councillor M Thurgood)*

## **6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **7 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

## **8 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Announcement made by the Mayor Councillor K Norchi:-

I would like to say a few words to thank everybody. I would like to start with thanking my mother. Without my mom obviously I wouldn't be here. Mom has always been there if we ever needed anything and she always sorted things out. My father passed away some years ago now but I would like to thank all the family although there are too many to go through, close friends and friends who have been with me over the years and who have put much effort in. A lot of you sitting here may remember my late good friend Bob Sharpe. Shame Bob can't be with us here tonight. I wonder where I would be without Bob? He was a character and just a great man. I want to thank you all personally as well because no matter which side of the bench you sit on I think you are all great people. We have our disagreements about politics but as far as I'm concerned that's as far as it goes. It's the people out there that need help they need us to be working for them. Once again thinking of those people none of us would be sitting here. They need us. Obviously there are 1001 things to think of as Peter Seekings said earlier on. If it wasn't for Peter I would never have dreamed of becoming a Councillor. He took me to a Labour Party meeting and the rest is history now. I thank Peter very much. I won't go on for an hour and a half as I know you all want a drink and a bite to eat. I invite you all into the parlour and hope to speak to as many of you as I can. Thank you for your support.

Announcement made by the Leader of the Council Councillor D Cook:-

Sorry Mr Mayor with your indulgence we have a professional photographer here tonight that is going to take photographs of the new members. For many years I have toured other Council's around the country and every single Council seems to have a tradition that we don't have. As tonight as we have a photographer I would like to give it a go with everyone's indulgence at the end how about we get a photograph of all of the Councillors together at the Mayor Making with all the Councillors behind you? I would be grateful if everyone would be available for a photograph afterwards?

Announcement made by the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor R Pritchard:-

Congratulations on your election to office. In the light of the Constitution to award former members of the Council or served more than 3 consecutive terms Aldermen status I have pleasure in presenting to the Council tonight a list of former such members of the Council. Can I thank Councillor A James for giving up lots of hours especially on a Saturday afternoon to go through the list and I also understand that members of the Opposition did so as well. They have done an equal amount of gofering! This list in addition to John Garner is to the best of our knowledge complete and so therefore I would like to move that the Council arrange a later date to decide to award the Aldermen status.

This was voted on an a unanimous decision was made to arrange a date for an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held

Announcement made by Councillor M Gant:-

Simon Peale mentioned John Wells earlier. This is just to say that I went to the Memorial Service and I had a lovely message off Diane Wells thanking me for the tribute paid to John on behalf of the Council and Ken and myself. It was very much appreciated and he had a really good send off.

Announcement made by the Mayor Councillor K Norchi:-

The Mayor invited Margaret Clarke and Marion Couchman forward to accept a Certificate for his appreciation for their services carried out whilst Councillors at Tamworth Borough Council.

## 9 QUESTION TIME:

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Madge will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

“With the concerns over Lichfield planning to build a 1000 houses on the northern borders of Tamworth at Arkall Farm and the potential for North Warwickshire’s Meaningful Gap project that could see another 1500 homes built on our Eastern borders, what are the Leader of the Council’s plans to stop our town being throttled by neighbouring authorities that will see us gain nothing from these developments other than adding misery and stress to our already struggling infrastructure?”

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:**

I will try and take it in two parts, basically to the North and to the East, but first we must recall that the land available within Tamworth’s political boundary cannot meet our professionally calculated housing need until 2031 as demonstrated in the recently adopted local plan. Therefore we are reliant through duty to co-operate on LDC and NWBC to meet some of this need so we need to ensure we approach this correctly. Those two authorities need to go through due process to ensure that any development is suitably mitigated.

Officers following requests from Cllr Steve Claymore have already been playing hardball with colleagues in NWBC and it would appear that in NWBC's latest considerations for the next iteration of their plan include options for development away from Tamworth's borders. Already some areas of "Meaningless Gap" (no pun intended) have been removed from consideration after challenge by TBC officers.

We have already objected to the Lichfield Local Plan and the Arkall Farm development. As we know the BWB report demonstrated what was sustainable through the Gungate corridor traffic wise. The 500 plus at Anker Valley and the 165 at Browns lane have already moped up this capacity and any additional created by the Pinch Point works. Keep in mind that the report was commissioned and paid for by TBC, LDC and the County Council so we hope they will continue to support the findings.

Already Councillor John Chesworth and Councillor Rob Pritchard and delivering updates to residents and encouraging them to join the fight against the Arkall Farm development. Myself, Councillor Richard Kingstone, Councillor John Chesworth and Councillor Richard Pritchard are already engaged in a fight about who gets to go and object direct to Lichfield's planning committee should it reach them.

So to sum up, we need to work with NWBC to fully understand the "Meaningless Gap" intentions and how it affects Tamworth's infrastructure and residents. If it has negative impacts we will fight it tooth and nail. The Controlling Group, thus this Council is opposed to Arkall Farm completely and I don't see this changing in the near future. We will fight it as far as we can and hope to win.

We are continuing to meet with both authorities to encourage them to work with us to identify the most appropriate locations to deliver growth to meet Tamworth's needs.

From a personal perspective, and it will come as no surprise to those present, I am pro-house building. But it must be done legally, professionally and in the correct places. If it is not, we fight it.

**Councillor T Madge asked the following supplementary question:-**

"Does the leader of the council agree with me that the failings of our Local Plan has in fact created this mess by asking neighbouring authorities to build houses for Tamworth? They are naturally going to put them right on our borders and we can do little about it, we have created this awful scenario by creating a Local Plan based on greed not need?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-**

A fundamental truth that those that have been Councillors will understand! Property developers can be the most ruthless business people you will ever come across in your life. They know the cost of a brick, a tap, a sink before they even go and look at a site. They are absolutely ruthless in their business calculations. I

can not wrap my head round that Councillor Madge believes property developers build houses round us that no one is going to buy. The world just simply doesn't work that way. They wouldn't build them if no one was going to buy them. So in answer to his question no I do not rubbish the hard work of the offices of Tamworth Borough Council.

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Madge will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

“You informed the Council in December 2014 that you were reducing the size of your cabinet from 6 members to 5. The Cabinet it would seem has now gone back to 6 members, this will add a further £5,000 plus, to the cost that the council taxpayer of Tamworth will have to pay. Can you inform the Council the reasoning behind this increase?”

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-**

Thank you Councillor Madge, I am happy to explain my thinking in Agenda item 10 on tonight's meeting. That is entirely the point of the item, for the newly elected Leader to set out his/her Cabinet, roles and responsibilities.

As there is a return to, NOT an addition, I will cover this at that point in the meeting.

**Councillor T Madge asked the following supplementary question:-**

“Why is it that for over 12 months we cope yet now we can't? Was this not a cost saving exercise that has failed which makes me consider how much credence we can place on the rest of your policies and plans?”

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-**

Another demonstration of not understanding the agenda on this Council's table at the minute!

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor R Bilcliff will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

“Could the Leader of Tamworth Council clarify what he meant by his email reply to my Supplementary question on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 with regards to the amount of land being laid aside for Tamworth's Flexi-care requirements for the elderly when he said “Tamworth will need to prepare harder than ever to ensure this demographic population shift is catered for correctly long term. I intend a large part of discussions for the preparation of the next local plan to focus on this aspect”.

Does this mean we will have to wait 15 years before anything is done to cater for this most urgent need?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-**

Simple answer, No it does not.

**Councillor R Bilcliff asked the following question:-**

"Staffordshire County Council has already failed to meet the current needs for Flexi-care clearly highlighted in there Flexi-care Housing Strategy 2010-15 document. Planned increases for this type of housing here in Tamworth during the term of this local plan are woefully insufficient and in the case of Leasehold and Shared ownership actually non-existent. Does the Leader not agree that this is totally unacceptable and that it should be redressed immediately by laying aside land for partners willing to supply this need before this council fails to provide the right type of housing for the needs of Tamworth's elderly residents?"

**Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-**

Councillor Bilcliff, congratulations on your election victory, strap yourself in for a big learning curve. We all went through it.

Infrastructure planning for a Town through Local Plans, Infrastructure Delivery Plans and many other means are complex and ever changing.

We will shortly start work on the next local plan that we re-calculate Housing numbers, retail, office space etc. We do not wait until 2031. We will begin budgetary discussions shortly to pay for the construction of the next plan.

Needs change, shopping habits change, population demographics can change. To fully tie us into a plan for the next 15 years would be pure madness. It needs to be fluid to allow for change.

Policy HG2 in adopted plan "The inclusion of Flexi-care schemes for older people should be considered as part of the development where feasible", so we can already consider the needs of older people based on existing policies.

We could potentially bring forward supplementary planning guidance to deal with this, although new evidence will be needed, but this can be done. We could review part of the plan early if needed – this would probably require us to review all of the housing policies and need new evidence – risk here is that the housing numbers may go up, wouldn't you be popular?

I stand by my point, in the next Local Plan (hopefully before the end of the decade) I will push for real focus on an elderly population.

I hope now you are elected you will start to understand exactly how Local Plan's function because I am concerned at present you do not correctly understand it or its function, don't panic because neither does your group leader

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The membership of Cabinet for 2016/17 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

### REVISED CABINET PORTFOLIOS 2016/2018

Leader of the Council Cllr Daniel Cook	Assets and Finance Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)
Portfolio	Portfolio
Corporate Assessments	Corporate Finance & Procurement
Engagement Overview	Audit & Governance
Financial Planning	Service Transformation
Performance Management	Customer Services, HR and ICT
Member Development	GF/HRA Commercial Property & Asset Management
Strategic Overview	Constitution
Strategic Partnerships	Treasury Management
Budget Consultation	Revenues & Benefits
Participatory Budgeting	Community Health & Safety
Tamworth Listens	Corporate Health and Safety
Reputation	PR and Coms Management (GF & HRA)
Organisational Capacity	Graphics and Publications
Corporate Consultation / Engagement (GF & HRA)	Town Centre Car Parks
Delivering Quality Services Overview	Council Tax and NNDR recovery
	Legal and Democratic Services
Communities Cllr Stephen Doyle	Regeneration Cllr Steve Claymore
Portfolio	Portfolio
Safer & Stronger Communities	Education / Educational Attainment
Community Safety, ASB Reduction & Crime	Career Skills and Training
Tackling Fear of Crime	Business Development
Integrated Enforcement / Clean Streets Enforcement	Town Centre Development
CCTV Management	Town Centre Economy / Enterprise Qtr. Development Management
Community Development and Locality Working	Building Control
Police and Crime Commissioner Engagement	Town Centre Market Development
Civil Parking Enforcement	Planning
Third Sector Engagement	Local Plan / Regeneration
Voluntary Sector Engagement and Funding	Southern Staffordshire Partnership (SSP)
Locality / Integrated Commissioning.	LEP Board Member / Combined Authority
CCG / PCT Engagement	Infrastructure / Transport / LTB
Healthier Communities / Lifestyles	Gateways Project
Community Wardens.	Housing Regeneration Projects
Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults	
Child Protection / Every Child Matters Agenda	

<b>Housing Services Cllr Michelle Thurgood</b>	<b>Environment and Culture Cllr Joy Goodall</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Strategic Housing	Strategic Waste Management
Homelessness Prevention	Refuse Collection
Housing Advice	Recycling Services
Landlord Services / Council Housing	Waste Minimisation
Council Housing Stock Capacity	Joint Waste Board with LDC.
Private Rented Sector Housing	Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board
HRA Neighbourhood Renewal	Cemeteries
Healthier Housing	Nature Reserves, Parks and Play
Public Sector Garages	Street Furniture Maintenance
HRA Business Planning	Streetscene
Tenant Engagement	Tamworth in Bloom
Decent Homes Standard	Licensing
Housing Repairs Service	Environmental Health
Service Charges	Sports Development and Leisure Services
RSL Engagement	Tourism/ Destination Tamworth
Decent & Affordable Housing Development	Outdoor Events
	Heritage Conservation / Promotion
	Culture and the Arts
	Services for Young People / Youth Council

## 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Constitution and Membership of Committees for 2016/17 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 2016 – 2017

#### CABINET

Councillors	D Cook	Leader of the Council
	R Pritchard	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance
	S Claymore	Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
	S Doyle	Portfolio Holder for Communities and Wellbeing
	J Goodall	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture
	M Thurgood	Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

#### CABINET (GRANTS) SUB

Councillors	S Claymore
	S Doyle
	R Pritchard



**APPOINTMENTS AND STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Councillors            D Cook  
                              S People  
                              T People  
                              R Pritchard  
                              M Thurgood

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillors            J Chesworth  
                              C Cooke  
                              J Faulkner  
                              M Gant  
                              R Kingstone  
                              J Oates  
                              M Summers

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillors            J Chesworth  
                              S Claymore  
                              J Goodall  
                              S Goodall  
                              M Greatorex  
                              T Madge  
                              K Norchi  
                              J Oates  
                              M Oates  
                              T People  
                              P Standen  
                              M Summers  
                              P Thurgood

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Councillors            R Bilcliff  
                              T Clements  
                              A Couchman  
                              S Doyle  
                              R Ford  
                              M Gant  
                              J Goodall  
                              A James  
                              A Lunn  
                              M Oates  
                              R Rogers  
                              P Seekings  
                              P Standen

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Councillors            T Clements  
                              D Cook  
                              M Greatorex  
                              R Kingstone  
                              T Madge  
                              T People  
                              P Seekings

**ASPIRE AND PROSPER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors            R Bilcliff  
                              J Chesworth  
                              R Ford  
                              S Goodall  
                              R Kingstone  
                              S People  
                              R Rogers  
                              P Standen  
                              P Thurgood

**HEALTHIER AND SAFER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors            T Clements  
                              C Cooke  
                              A Couchman  
                              J Faulkner  
                              M Gant  
                              S Goodall  
                              M Greatorex  
                              A James  
                              J Oates  
                              M Summers

**CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Councillors            A James  
                              A Lunn  
                              T Madge  
                              S People  
                              M Thurgood

**STATUTORY OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Councillors            R Bilcliff  
                              A James  
                              A Lunn  
                              S People  
                              M Thurgood

## 12 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) RULES 2012

The Report of the Leader of the Council to advise Members of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 specify and require *inter alia* under Regulation 19 that the executive leader must submit a report on a regular basis to Council containing details of particulars of each urgent executive decision and a summary of the matters in respect of which the decision was made was considered

**RESOLVED:** That Members endorsed the Annual Executive Arrangements Report.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

## 13 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Report of the Leader of the Council and the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer seeking to obtain Council's comments, endorsement and approval of the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation as required by legislation was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That Council adopted and approved the changes to the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation;

endorsed the changes to the then reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation; and

referred the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to Audit and Governance Committee for consideration and overview.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Peuple)*

## 14 REGULATION OF MEMBERS CONDUCT

The Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer to advise Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2015 until 30 April 2016 in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct arising from implementation of Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 which introduced provisions to assist with the regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That Members endorsed the findings of the contents of the report.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by  
Councillor R Pritchard)*

**15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The Calendar of Meetings for 2016/17 was received and circulated at the meeting

**RESOLVED** That Members accept the Calendar of Meetings for  
2016/17

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by  
Councillor S Peuple)*

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The Mayor